

The Chieftain

WEEKLY EDITION

D. M. MARRS, Publisher

VINITA, I. T., MAY 7, 1903.

Now get ready for the Secretary of the Interior.

Muskogee has a new drink named "We need a beer."

Stand still and see the Choctaw merchants pay their tax—nit.

Every Missouri legislator is presumed to be guilty until he proves his innocence.

Secretary Hitchcock is from Missouri and consequently may have to be shown.

Another railroad will be built into Vinita from the northwest if present plans materialize.

Let the townspeople association organized some weeks ago get a move on itself. There must be something doing.

Some of the trees planted this spring have already died and before fall not half of them will have survived, but still the effort was worth while.

The man who gets the notion into his head that Vinita cannot do things is sadly mistaken. There is going to be "something doing" from now on.

The Townsite Association should now get a move on itself. A committee to meet the Secretary of the Interior is one of the things that must not be neglected.

Indian Territory has 2,841 miles of railroad built and under construction. Fully 2,000 miles are in operation and more than 2,000 miles are already projected.

The railroad survey from Vinita to Alva is going forward and has reached the Verdigris country west of this place. The survey went south of Centralia a mile or two.

The city of South McAlester has tackled one of the most potent obstructions to modern civilization; the town cow. The country will watch with interest and anxiety the outcome.

The plight of Vinita streets is not quite so bad as during the muddy weather some weeks back, but the amount of rubbish scattered promiscuously about is something fearful.

Secretary Hitchcock's proposed visit of investigation to the Indian territory has caused as great a commotion in certain official circles as Folk's boodle investigation in Missouri.

Hundreds of Indians were turned away from the land office before it closed last week and not permitted to file. These people are, many of them, utterly unable to make the journey to Tahlequah and are in a pitiable condition.

The Dawes Commission are seeking to obscure the real reasons for the removal of the land office from Vinita by saying that their promise to Tahlequah was sacred—more sacred than the interests of the people they serve.

If ever the inward workings of the Interior Department in the Indian Territory is fully uncovered it will expose a system of rottenness that will stagger the whole federal government. The shame of Missouri won't be in the same class.

Chief Burlington is of the opinion that the Cherokee land office will eventually be moved to Muskogee to remain until finished. Along with its other duties the Dawes Commissioner seems to be interested in town building and real estate generally.

There was a time not many years ago when the resignation of at least one member of the Dawes commission was demanded, and but for the interposition of Indian Territory friends would have been ousted. The thing may happen now and no one cares how soon.

If Secretary Hitchcock can get rid of a certain element in the In-

dian territory long enough to learn from the people something of the conditions existing here he will be most fortunate. His footsteps will be followed by the very men that need watching.

Next week we will have with us the Sunday School workers of the whole Territory, probably one hundred strong. Let them be entertained in Vinita Homes with that hospitality characteristic of our people. The second annual convention will occupy three days 14, 15 and 16th.

Nearly one fifth of the allotments to Cherokee citizens have been made, and the land office has been in operation four months. At this rate the work will be completed in considerable less than three years. Seven thousand allotments have been filed and the average is above seventy a day.

In his dedicatory speech at St. Louis Thursday ex-president Cleveland said: "Almost within the limits of the territory gained by the Louisiana purchase, we have already carved out twelve great states—leaving still a large residue whose occupants are even now loudly clamoring for statehood."

Whenever Chairman Bixby or the Dawes commission gets above criticism some resignations will be in order. The conscientious official who is frankly and openly doing his duty as a public servant does not fear criticism. It is the scheming, wire pulling, money getting official that galls under the calcium light of investigation.

The Muskogee Times says Secretary Hitchcock wants to come to the Territory to convince the people that he is not a Czar. That will not be especially hard to do but if he will convince the people that there is not a Czar at the head of the Dawes Commission he will have solved a great problem and enlightened a long suffering people.

An example of one town persistently attempting to injure another may be found in perusing the columns of the Muskogee newspapers. During the time the land office was at Vinita it was repeatedly stated in the papers of our neighbor, Muskogee, that the land office force did not like Vinita nor Vinita people. The land office people repudiated the statement and always said that such assanine foolishness was wholly unauthorized. No good can come from such uncalled for vilification.

A good many years ago when Gen. Noble was Secretary of the Interior and a negro payment in the Cherokee nation was to be made at Bragg, an obscure station down on the Iron Mountain road, through the influence of lobbyists and shysters, the payment was ordered back to Vinita by wire, after the Secretary had been informed as to the circumstances. The same conditions, or similar, exist now only on a larger scale with reference to the removal of the land office to Tahlequah.

The editor of the esteemed Muskogee Phoenix seems to be the appointed, or mayhap self constituted guardian and defender of the commission to the five tribes. Any strictures of press or people with reference to the methods of the commission is a signal for a spectacular demonstration by Douglas, who is content to be allowed to stay on the pay roll, and is ready to hurl an editorial club at anyone who has the temerity to call in question any act of this long continued and over worked commission.

The prices asked for Vinita town lots may not altogether be regarded as prohibitive to the growth of the city but the declination to sell at any price may certainly be so regarded. A lot should be provided for every man who desires to build upon it—a low priced one for the man of small means and a good one for the man who cares to erect a more commodious and showy home or business house. We cannot afford to allow any one to be deterred from building for want of a site.

The killing of Peter Wolf, a full blood Cherokee in the Spavinaw hills a few days ago was without doubt an account of his having fled at the land office, as investigation seems to show conclusively. The proper course to pursue in this matter is to go over in the fullblood country and hunt down the leaders and lock them up and thus put a stop to further trouble. Those Indians will quietly and secretly pick off a man now and then until some steps are taken as was in the Crazy Snake uprising in the Creek country.

Sharing his song book with two little Kansas girls who sat beside him at Sharon Springs at church Sunday stands out prominently as one of the features of the president's trip through the west. It is the touch of the human element in one of the really great men of the time, and stamps him as being in reach of and sympathy with the great throbbing heart of humanity in all the walks of life. Those two little maidens will enigger about their good fortune and mayhap in after years tell their own listening little ones how they sang from the same book with the president. The hymns used will perhaps become more sacred as the years fly by.

The trouble with Secretary Hitchcock and the Indian Territory, and the misunderstandings have been in a large measure due to the misrepresentations of the emissaries of his department in charge of his business in this country. The Secretary has not had a fair presentation of facts as they really exist here, and his dependence upon a few oily politicians for information has led to many complications. If Secretary Hitchcock really gets in touch with the masses—with the common people—he will return to Washington with a larger and better knowledge of conditions in the Indian country. He will realize that there is grounds for complaint in many instances and that it is simply marvelous that the people have not cried out long ago against the tyranny of petty officials, whose arbitrary acts have been despised by every fair minded man and woman in the Indian territory.

WHERE IS THE LEAK?

"The Muskogee Phoenix declares there's a leak somewhere in the Interior Department at Washington. That may be true, but the chances are there is another and a bigger one in the Indian Territory end of the same department."

Of course Marrs knew the above was not true, and the surprising thing is that he permitted it to appear in his excellent paper—Phoenix.

In its issue of April 30 the Phoenix used the language quoted under the heading "Where is the leak." The Chieftain would not misquote any newspaper nor any man.

IS ROGERS A FRAUD?

The Muskogee Times, Kansas City Star and some other newspapers will find themselves in the attitude of defendants in suits for libel. Chas. B. Rogers came to Vinita from Shoals, Indiana. He is a lawyer by profession and has held office under state and federal government and has every appearance of being a gentleman. The Chieftain believes a great wrong has been done a worthy citizen. A full explanation will of course have to be made. If these papers can show that Rogers is really a fraud it is now up to them to do so. Today Mr. Rogers wired from St. Louis that the order to the effect that the land office remain at Vinita pending investigation was made from the Interior department at Washington last Tuesday, April 25th, and that an explanation had been demanded of Bixby. "We shall see what we shall see."

LAND OFFICE MOVED.

The land office at this place was closed last Friday, despite the order of the Assistant Secretary of the Interior of prior date. There are several thousand people in this section disappointed in not being allowed to file upon their homes while the land office was here. Many of them are utterly unable to make the journey to

WITH THE LEADERS



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others in volume of sales, there's a reason for it. ¶ This one shoe is "QUEEN QUALITY." Its sales are more than double the sales of any other woman's shoe. It can't be because of price, since it costs no less. It is simply a triumph of leadership. ¶ "Queen Quality" is recognized as the leader in style. It leads; others follow. It originates; others copy. Everywhere it sets the style. If you wear "Queen Quality" you are with the leaders in fashion.

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They have style and wearing qualities that are unsurpassed. We have had a personal experience with this line that convinces us of its superiority over any other line sold here. The styles we are showing are pleasing to the eye, fit the foot and never fail to give satisfactory service.

Sizes 5 to 8.....80c to \$1.00

Sizes 8½ to 11.....\$1.25 to \$2.00

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With a Large and a Very Complete Line to Select From.

BADGETT-SANDERS MERCANTILE COMPANY

Tahlequah and as they are not acquainted with that section nor with the people there are loth to attempt it. The Cherokee citizens of the northern portion of the nation feel much aggrieved and injured and had hoped the Secretary would make a personal investigation and give them a fair chance. No one not fully acquainted with conditions among the poorer classes can appreciate the gravity of the situation. The commercial interest of Vinita was the small est feature in the matter but was the only object that seemed to claim the attention of the Commissioners. Time will prove that a great and lamentable mistake has been made and a very great wrong done a helpless and dependent people.

HITCHCOCK'S MISSION.

The Secretary of the Interior is on a tour of inspection of the country occupied by about 80,000 of his wards, besides near 400,000 other people who are not wards. What is the object of Mr. Hitchcock's visit and what does he wish to see and hear. If he desires to get in closer touch with the Indians and to study their condition, desires, rights and general advancement from a savage to a civilized people, he should meet the people themselves and not be content with hearing from a coterie of office holders whose main ambition is to prolong their jobs. The Indians of the five tribes in this territory are engaged in working out one of the great problems of twentieth century civilization the transformation of Indian tribes from

a fishing, hunting, nomadic race to a place in the highest civilization and enlightenment of any people in any age.

Let the Secretary not forget that the people in whom his interest will doubtless center while on his friendly sojourn here, have but recently assumed the ways of the cultured and educated white people he will meet, were a generation ago. The Dawes Com-

mission or two removed, painted savages living by the chase, and that where we are now surrounded with all that exhorts and embellishes civilized life, a few short years ago were in the midst of an unbroken wilderness, the home of the frontiersman and scout, the coyote and the buffalo.

Let the secretary remember that the panoply of the protection of the greatest and best government in the history of the world has been their heritage, and that they have certain inalienable rights and privileges peculiar to themselves. Mr. Cleveland, eight years ago, when giving the original "Dawes Commission" their final instructions before sending them to this country to begin the laborious task of allotment said: "now gentlemen when this work shall have been finished and these Indians are made citizens of our government, don't let it be said that they have been mistreated in any way."

A manly commission from one of our greatest men of our time or of any time. If Mr. Cleveland could have foreseen the present citizenship rolls, the system of land leases, the segregation of the most valuable coal, oil and mineral lands, the seizure of vast tracts of Indian lands by railroads and corporations, under the very eye of the commission he could not have used more forceful or more prophetic language. In Greek mythology we have the story of the Sphinx. The moses taught her a riddle and the Thebans had to guess it. When they failed she carried one of them off and the mission is the Sphinx, the Indians of the five tribes the Thebans. They have failed to guess the riddle and are being devoured.

See the Game —OF—

BASE BALL

VINITA
—VS—
NEOSHO

—TAKE THE—

FRISCO SYSTEM SPECIAL

For NEOSHO

May 14th